

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated March 24, 2003. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 10-20, 22 and 24 are under consideration in this application. Claim 23 is being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 24 are being amended, as set forth above and in the attached marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

Additional Amendments

The claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better disclose or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejections

Claims 10-20 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated, the claims have been cancelled or amended mostly as required by the Examiner. However, regarding the “protein” recited in claim 22, Applicants contend that a “biopolymer” is commonly defined as “*a macromolecule, such as a protein or nucleic acid, that is formed in a living organism*”¹ such that there is no conflict in reciting “each of the biopolymers comprises a protein” in claim 22. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

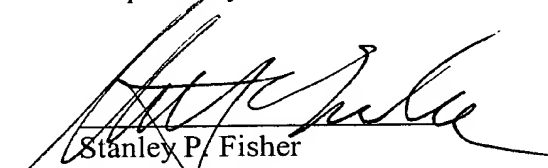
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate

¹ *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992

the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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